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Application No. 10/768,095
Amendment dated March 21, 2007
Reply to Office Action of December 21, 2006

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims

1. (Currently amended) A room thermostat comprising a circuit board, at least one electric relay mounted to the circuit board, a primary casing defining a chamber for housing the circuit board with said at least one electric relay mounted thereon, wherein said chamber is filled with a sound insulating material to dampen the noise generated by said at least one electric relay, said at least one electric relay comprises switch components housed in a secondary casing received within said primary casing, said secondary casing being embedded in said sound insulation material, said primary casing and said secondary casing defining first and second vents, said first and second vents being in fluid flow communication for venting ionized air produced by the at least one electric relay outside of the primary casing.

2. (Cancelled)

3. (Currently amended) A room thermostat as defined in claim, 2~~1~~, wherein said sound insulating material is a potting compound.

4. (Original) A room thermostat as defined in claim 3, wherein said potting compound is selected from a group consisting of: epoxy and urethane compounds.

5. (Original) A room thermostat as defined in claim 1, wherein said electric relay is substantially surrounded on all sides by said sound insulation material.

6. (Cancelled)

7. (Currently amended) A room thermostat as defined in claim 6~~1~~, ~~wherein said vent is connect in communication with a passage defined in said primary casing for venting the ionized air outside of the primary casing, and wherein one of said first vent and said second passage vent extends axially through a male projection received in a corresponding female part from which extends a second another one of said first vent and said second passage vent,~~

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said male projection and said female ~~projection-part~~ cooperating to ensure proper axial alignment of said first vent and said second passagevent.

8. (Currently amended) A room thermostat as defined in claim 7, wherein a gasket is provided about said male projection to prevent said insulation material from plugging said first vent and said passagessecond vent.

9. (Currently amended) A room thermostat as defined in claim 7, wherein said ~~mail-male~~ projection extends from said secondary casing of said electric relay, and wherein said female part is defined in an inner surface of said primary casing.

10. (Original) A room thermostat as defined in claim 1, wherein at least one opening is defined in said primary casing for allowing said insulation material to be poured into said chamber after the primary casing has been closed.

11. (Currently amended) An acoustically insulated electric unit comprising at least one electromechanical switch, a casing housing said electromechanical switch, said casing being filled with a sound insulation material such that said electromechanical switch be substantially completely embedded in said sound insulation material, said electromechanical switch comprises an electromagnet and an armature housed in a secondary casing received within said casing, said secondary casing being embedded in said sound insulation material, and wherein a vent is defined through the secondary casing and said casing.

12. (Cancelled)

13. (Currently amended) An acoustically insulated electric unit as defined in claim ~~12~~11, wherein said sound insulating material is a potting compound.

14. (Original) An acoustically insulated electric unit as defined in claim 13, wherein said potting compound is selected from a group consisting of: epoxy and urethane compounds.

15. (Cancelled)

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16. (Currently amended) An acoustically insulated electric unit as defined in claim ~~15~~11, wherein said vent includes a first outlet passage extends ~~extends~~ extending through a nipple projecting outwardly from said secondary casing, said nipple being received in a corresponding recess defined in an inner surface of said casing, and wherein ~~an said vent includes a second outlet passage extends~~ extending from said recess for allowing the ionized air to be vented outside of the casing, the first and second outlet passages being connected in fluid flow communication.

17. (Original) An acoustically insulated electric unit as defined in claim 16, wherein a seal is provided about said nipple to prevent said sound insulation material from plugging said vent and said outlet passage.

18. (Original) An acoustically insulated electric unit as defined in claim 11, wherein at least one opening is defined in said casing for allowing said sound insulation material to be poured therein.

19. (Original) An acoustically insulated electric unit as defined in claim 11, wherein said electric unit is a baseboard relay.

20. (Currently amended) A method for acoustically damping the click sound produced by an electromechanical switch comprising an electromagnet and an armature, the method comprising the steps of: disposing the electromagnet and the armature in a switch casing, mounting the switch casing in a main casing with a vent defined in the switch casing in fluid flow communication with an outlet defined in the main casing, and filling the casinga space between the switch casing and the main casing with a sound insulating potting compound.

21. (Cancelled)